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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

- 1. (Canceled)
- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Canceled)
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (New) A metal surface treatment to increase strength, flexibility and fatigue life of metals, and to protect metal-to-metal bonds at the apexes of cracks, scratches and gouges on the surface of metals, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) cleaning the surface of the metal to remove mill scale, soils, oils, corrosion products and previous coatings;
 - (b) removing moisture from said apexes;
 - (c) applying a metal etch to the surface of the metal; and
 - (d) applying a liquid corrosion preventative compound to said etched surface, whereby the strength, flexibility, and fatigue life of the metal are increased.